



STATE OF  
CONNECTICUT  
ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN AFFAIRS  
COMMISSION



<http://www.cga.ct.gov/asianamerican/>

Testimony of the Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission before the Judiciary  
Committee  
April 4, 2011

NAYUL HANNURKAR

**Re: SB 1230- AAC Traffic Stop Information**

Senators Coleman and Doyle, Representatives Fox and Holder-Winfield, and members of the Judiciary Committee, on behalf of the Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission (APAAC) thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 1230 - AAC Traffic Stop Information.

As you know the *APAAC is the only nonpartisan comprehensive state institution that evaluates laws and policies for their impact on the lives of Asian Pacific Americans (APA's) in Connecticut.* Our job is to provide information, analysis, and assistance to the General Assembly, state agencies, state leaders and the public on all matters concerning the status of APA's.

Starting off, while the APAAC supports SB 1230's purpose- to enhance compliance with data collection and reporting required under the Alvin W. Penn Racial Profiling Prohibition Act-, we believe that an equally important issue not addressed by SB 1230 is the issue of changing strongly held perceptions in the minority community that police officers are influenced by the race/ethnicity of motorists during traffic stops.

For example, a recent study by the US Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services suggests that a majority of minorities believe that police departments engage in racial profiling.

Further, in my position as the legislative analyst for the APAAC I've spoken more than a few Sikh and Muslim Americans who feel that they've received unfair treatment by police officers because of their race.

The issue here is that the collection and evaluation of data, in and of itself, does not address or defuse community perceptions and frustrations. And in light of the politically charged environment of today, any legislation that seeks to address racial profiling needs to have significant and substantive input from the ethnic community to defuse community perceptions of racial profiling.

For this reason the APAAC believes that SB 1230 ought to include language that involves all the ethnic commissions in reviewing the data collected by police departments and in producing the annual report, with recommendations on reducing racial profiling, to the governor and legislature. We envision a collaborative effort among representatives from OPM, CJIS Governing Board, and the ethnic commissions. See attached for sample language.

Let me be clear here on two points. First, I do not intend to speak for the African American Affairs Commission nor the Latino Commission, but one cannot deny that any racial profiling evaluation and report produced by the State of Connecticut needs substantive input from representatives of the minority community in Connecticut.

Second, I realize that, in the past, because of a lack of resources the African American Affairs Commission hasn't been able to provide evaluations and recommendations on an annual basis as it was supposed to do under the original Penn Act. But the APAAC believes that in a time of shared sacrifice if the ethnic commissions along with OPM and the CJIS Governing Board pool some of their resources for the annual evaluation and report called for in SB 1230, the Commissions will add a crucial piece to the racial profiling puzzle. Thank you for this opportunity. I'll be glad to answer questions.

PROPOSED CHANGE TO ADD ETHNIC COMMISSIONS TO THE REVIEW AND ANNUAL REPORT PROCESS:

(i) The Office of Policy and Management, the Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission, the African American Affairs Commission, the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission, and the Criminal Justice Information System Governing Board shall review the prevalence and disposition of traffic stops and complaints reported pursuant to this section. Not later than January 1, [2004] 2013, and annually thereafter, the [African-American Affairs Commission] commissions, office, and board shall report the results of such review, including any recommendations, to the Governor, the General Assembly and [to] any other entity [said commission deems] deemed appropriate, [the results of such review, including any recommendations.]